

This affair produced but little effect in Paris, for the enterprise and its result were made known simultaneously. But it was thought droll enough that the Minister and Prefect of Police should be imprisoned by the men who only the day before were their prisoners. Next day I went to see Savary, who had not yet recovered from the stupefaction caused by his extraordinary adventure. He was aware that his imprisonment, though it lasted only half an hour, was a subject of merriment to the Parisians.<sup>1</sup>

The Emperor, as I have already mentioned, left Moscow on the day when Mallet made his bold attempt, that is to say, the 19th of October.<sup>2</sup> He was at Smolensko when he heard the news. ! Rapp, who had been wounded before the entrance into Moscow, but who was sufficiently recovered to return home, was with Napoleon when the latter received the despatches containing an account of what had happened in Paris. He informed me that Napoleon was much agitated on perusing them, and that he launched into abuse of the inefficiency of the police. Rapp added that he did not confine himself to complaints against the agents of his authority, "Is, then, my power so insecure," said he, "that it may be put in peril by a single individual, and a prisoner? It would appear that my crown is not fixed very firmly on my head if in my own capital the bold stroke of three adventurers can shake it. Rapp, misfortune never comes alone; this is the complement of what is passing here. I cannot be everywhere; but I must go back to Paris; my presence there is indispensable to re-animate public opinion. I must have men

<sup>1</sup> Savary's arrant was a rich subject for the wits of Paris. "I will quote on this occasion," says Mademoiselle Avril-Hon, "a *bon-mot* that was repeated from one end of the city to the other: an every one known, it was in the middle of the night that the Due de L'ovigo was seized: the Duchess, terrified by the noise she heard, rushed out of her bedroom *en deshabille*, which made her say that 'La peronne qui s'c'tait l'© mtaux montrce, chins raffaire <le Mallet, o'tait la Duchesse de L'ovigo.'" See also the *Memoirs of Rapp*, p. 251.

\* It was not on the 10th of October but on the night of the 22d of October that Mallet commenced his enterprise, which finished early on the 2Hd of October, 1815J; BOO *The it-nt*, tome xlv. p. H2II, Napoleon had left Moscow on the 19th, and on the 2M was approaching Malo-JaroslawaU, of ill name for him, where on the 24th of October he was thrown off his intended line of retreat on to the same line as he had advanced by.